



Dear Sisters,

We have received good feedback on the new INFO format, which we are certainly pleased about. It encourages us to continue to move forward in this cycle that we have begun, with the novelty of presenting each of the Territories, and proposing a page of reflection. In this issue, we are going to meet the sisters from Spain, the largest Territory at present. We will be able to recognise the faces of sisters with whom we have shared a meeting or an experience and read a little of the history and mission of the Congregation in Spain today.

During this time of Easter, we have followed in the liturgy in the Acts of the Apostles, the journeys of Paul and how the Church was spreading in the world at that time. The Church, and our Congregation in it, spread by the missionary impulse of those who were able to cross seas and mountains and to travel many miles to bring the faith in the Risen Lord to other places. This is how the local churches were founded, and this is how our Sacred Hearts communities were founded in so many countries around the world. We must not forget the missionary movements of the sisters who left France in 1838 and who little by little sowed the seeds of the Congregation in other countries and continents. May we keep in mind their names, their witness, their example...

Spain is a Territory that has a long history, and a large number of missionary sisters who have maintained for years a presence in other countries and continents. In addition to their long presence in Africa, not forgetting the many services to the congregation, they founded Paraguay, where several sisters still remain, giving the Paraguayan sisters the possibility to thank them with their care, attention and affection, which is so important in family life! Today, as we will read further on, their missionary spirit is expressed in the creativity and novelty of their presence and projects.

In the invitation to reflection, we are going to meet our dear sister Gabriel de la Barre, who has so much to tell us! We hope that we will want to get to know her better, to read, or perhaps reread, her writings and soak up again her stories, the life of our founders and the history of the beginnings of the Congregation, narrated by one who actively participated in them. Who knew the Good Mother better than she did?

And I also have some good news for you. In the next few days, we will send to the English and Spanish speaking countries the publication we have done of the Writings of Gabriel de la Barre, a book that only existed in French. And, although the translation was put on the website, we know how difficult it is for many sisters to read a book online. We believe that the edited book will be well received in the communities and that very soon many of you will have read it.

We are still celebrating the feast of Pentecost. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to never extinguish within us the missionary impulse that moves us always to seek where to serve, whom to welcome, where to go and what to do, in order to make known to others the love of God, who is able to reach out to everyone, to all...

With warm affection,